

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01

OIC-02 SP-02 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /092 W

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P R 141551Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1083

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6999

FODAG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME DISCUSSES GENEVA
MEETING OF MAY 5-6 ON INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: GENEVA 3305

SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME DISCUSSED MAY 5-6 MEETING IN
GENEVA ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND
REACHED CONSENSUS THAT THERE ARE TWO KEY POINTS WHICH SHOULD
BE FOLLOWED IN CONSULTATIONS AND IN WORKING PARTY TO BE ES-
TABLISHED AT END OF JUNE: A) DEFINITION OF CHANNELS THROUGH
WHICH AID MAY FLOW, IN TERMS THAT WOULD PERMIT EXISTING PRO-
GRAMS OF TRADITIONAL DONOR COUNTRIES TO BE COUNTED IN BALANCING
AGAINST NEW AID FROM OPEC COUNTRIES, AND B) ENCOURAGEMENT
OF PARTICIPATION OF 9 OPEC DONOR COUNTRIES IN FUND ORGANIZATION,
SINCE THESE COUNTRIES APPEAR TO SHARE EMPHASIS OF
TRADITIONAL DONORS ON TECHNICAL AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL BASIS
OF OPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. GENEVA GROUP IN ROME MET MAY 13 TO BE BRIEFED BY THE MEM-
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BERS WHO ATTENDED GENEVA MEETING MAY 5-6 ON INTERNATIONAL FUND

FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE RAISED OBJECTION FOR RECORD THAT GENEVA GROUP IN ROME NOT AUTHORIZED TO TREAT THIS MEETING. U.S. CHAIRMAN OF MEETING RECOGNIZED THAT RESPONSIBILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR CONSULTATIONS OF FUND, BUT SUGGESTED THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO MERE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON GENEVA MEETING. BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE GAVE BRIEFING, USING HANNAH'S SUMMARY AND AGREED GUIDELINES (GENEVA'S 3299 AND 3305) AS TERMS OF REFERENCE. BRIEFING WAS CROSS-CHECKED BY AUSTRALIAN AND BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD ALSO ATTENDED, AND AGAINST REPORTING BY GOVERNMENTS. (IT WAS NOTED THAT OUTSIDE OF GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES, ROME REPRESENTATIVES OF BANGLADESH, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CUBA, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, MEXICO, PANAMA, PAKISTAN, SAUDIA ARABIA, AND SIERRA LEONE HAD ALSO ATTENDED GENEVA MAY 5-6 MEETING.) IN ADDITION TO DETAILED REVIEW OF GENEVA MEETING, GENEVA GROUP MEETING IN ROME ARRIVED AT CONSENSUS OF TWO MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS, WITH NO FURTHER DEMURRER FROM FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE.

2. IT SEEMS IMPORTANT THAT WAY HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN TO CONSIDER FLOWS OF FUNDS THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS TO BE PART OF FUND OPERATIONS. EARLIER SPECIFIC DEFINITION OF EQUALLY MATCHING FUNDS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL DONORS AND OPEC COUNTRIES WAS NOT ADDRESSED IN MEETING, AND WAY WAS LEFT OPEN FOR FUNDS TO FLOW THROUGH VARIOUS EXISTING CHANNELS. IF WORKING GROUP CAN DEVELOP THIS IN WAY THAT WOULD INCLUDE ONLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS BUT STILL ENABLE PROGRAMS OF TRADITIONAL DONORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, SOME MAJOR OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT OF FUND MAY BE OVERCOME. FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE SAID SUCH FORMULA PROBABLY WOULD ELIMINATE HIS COUNTRY'S OBJECTIONS TO FUND.

3. BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE SAID SAUDI ARABIAN AND TWO OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF OPEC COUNTRIES WITH WHOM HE TALKED SEEMED TO BE ABOUT AS INSISTENT AS TRADITIONAL DONOR COUNTRIES ON ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL BASIS FOR FUND OPERATION. IF THIS IS CORRECT, PROGRESS MAY DEPEND TO LARGE DEGREE ON HOW MANY OPEC DONOR COUNTRIES TAKE SEATS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY QUOTA. DAC COUNTRIES PRESUMABLY CAN FILL OUT QUOTA OF 9, ALTHOUGH WE CAN COUNT ONLY 8 AT PRESENT (AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANDAD, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES AND 1 NORDIC COUNTRY). IF OPEC DONOR

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COUNTRIES THAT SHARE VIEWS OF TRADITIONAL DONORS FAVORING TECHNICAL AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL BASIS OF OPERATION FILL MANY OF THE 18 DEVELOPING COUNTRY SEATS, PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN FUND OPERATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME06999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750169-0550
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750553/aaaabvwd.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 3305
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP IN ROME DISCUSSES GENEVA MEETING OF MAY 5-6 ON INTERNATIONAL FUND
TAGS: EAID, EAGR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006